



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
***WOMEN'S COMMISSION***  
**KATJANA BALLANTYNE**  
**MAYOR**

**DENISE MOLINA CAPERS, ESQ**  
**DIRECTOR OF RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Women's Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2022  
7:00 pm

Women's Commission Member	Present	Women's Commission Member	Present
Crystal Turner, Co-Chair	X	Arlen Weiner	X
Kimberly Sheridan Co-Chair	X	Deborah Lormeus	X
Stephanie Galaitsi	X	CC Morone	
Denise Molina Capers, Director of Racial and Social Justice, Staff member	X	Lauren Spengler, Commissions Coordinator, Staff Member	X

1. Call to Order

At 7:06pm Crystal made a motion to call the meeting to order, it was seconded by Stephanie.

2. Introductions

There were no new visitors to introduce, nor new members.

3. Old Business

a. Minutes

The minutes will go live on website in March

b. Follow Up on Meeting Request with Mayor Ballantyne, Voices of Somerville Survey

Mayor Ballantyne is scheduled to visit the SCW meeting in March - awaiting city staff confirmation. Question on pause on commission appointments, an update is coming before march.

c. Re-Visit Conversation on Clarifying Coordinator role; continue working on expectations document with focus on expectations for executive director.

Re-focus in terms of goals of SCW as Commission as a whole and subcommittees.

- d. Review Standing Committees Established at Last Meeting to ensure they were established according to Bylaws;

For standing committees it is best to outline responsibilities up front prior to voting them in. SCW would like to request meeting with the city clerk to understand rules of small group gatherings.

Update from the Policy Committee:

Policy Issue discussed was parental leave in Somerville. Asking commission to reach out for more information.

Stephanie made a motion to reach out to state legislator: Arlen seconded. All in favor.

Arlen made a motion to reach out to Cambridge women's commission executive director: Stephanie seconded. All in favor.

Another policy issue discussed was the sidewalk shoveling issue. Emails were sent by constituents to the commission outlining this problem. Stephanie made a motion to approve a request for a meeting with DPW: Kim seconded. All in favor. Lauren and Stephanie will work together to get this meeting.

Final policy issue discussed was sexual education/healthy relationships curriculum in schools. Question posed is: can we ask for sex ed/health curriculum annually for review? The idea is to make the connection with the school. Arlen made a motion and Stephanie seconded. All in favor.

What is the best way to move forward – committee – working group – special meeting?

- e. Proposal to establish a Working Group for strategic planning, re-establishing the foundations

#### 4. New Business

- a. Discuss Budget Priorities to communicate to Mayor. Form Task Force or Working Group to develop and submit a budget.

Need to plan out events for what we need a budget for.

- b. Top proposed priorities: Executive Director, Strategic Planning Consultant

5. Late Agenda Items

- a. Special meeting 2/28 7pm for goal setting and strategic planning

Keep in mind strategic recruiting for new commissioners

Outlined 4 yearly goals for the Commission

6. Adjourn

8:15pm Crystal made a motion to adjourn: seconded by Deborah.